

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-4, 6-13 and 16 as follows:

1. (currently amended): A medical image processing method of processing image data representing an image obtained by radiography and read by an image reading apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving the plural kinds of image data representing a series of images and respective photographing condition conditions when the image is series of images are obtained;

(b) executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data;

(c) reading obtaining output-format control information corresponding to the photographing condition conditions received at step (a) from a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the image is series of images are to be output in one screen-on-a-film; and

(d) automatically constructing a layout of the image series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of the read output-format control information obtained at step (c).

2. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein each of said photographing condition conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

3. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing the read obtained output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

outputting one of (i) the image series of images after the image processing and (ii) the image constructed series of images in the layout constructed based on the basis of the image attendant information stored output-format control information, in accordance with a user's instruction.

4. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a the step of:

previewing and adjusting an image the series of images to be output in one screen on the film.

5. (original): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

6. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus for processing image data representing an image obtained by radiography and read by an image reading apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

first means for receiving the plural kinds of image data representing a series of images and respective photographing condition conditions when the image is series of images are obtained;

second means for executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data; and

third means for reading obtaining output-format control information corresponding to the photographing condition conditions received by said first means from a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the image is series of images are to be output in one screen; and on a film

fourth means for automatically constructing a layout of the series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of the output-format control information obtained by said third means.

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for storing the ~~read obtained~~ output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

means for outputting one of (i) the image series of images after the image processing and (ii) the image constructed series of images in the layout constructed based on the basis of the image attendant information stored output-format control information, in accordance with a user's instruction.

9. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further for processing image data representing an image obtained by radiography and read by an image reading apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

first means for receiving plural kinds of image data representing a series of images and respective photographing conditions when the series of images are obtained;

second means for executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data; and

third means for obtaining output-format control information corresponding to the photographing conditions received by said first means from a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the series of images are to be output in one screen;

fourth means for storing the ~~read obtained~~ output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

fifth means for outputting the image data and the image attendant information.

10. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein each of said photographing condition conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

11. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein each of said photographing condition conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

12. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for previewing and adjusting ~~an image~~ the series of images to be output in one screen ~~on the film~~.

13. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for previewing and adjusting ~~an image~~ the series of images to be output in one screen ~~on the film~~.

14. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 7 6, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

15. (original): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

16. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for automatically constructing a layout of an image a series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of input image data and image attendant information; and

means for outputting the image constructed in said the constructed layout.